

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Claims 1-12 (cancelled)****Claim 13 (New)**

13. A test member for producing an electrical signal in response to the concentration of analyte in a fluid applied thereto, the test member comprising:
adjacent working and non-working areas that together define a top surface of the test member and together define an opposite bottom surface of the test member, the working area being adapted and configured to engage a fluid applied thereto and having a total thickness between an uppermost portion of the top surface of the test member in the working area and a lowermost portion of the bottom surface in the working area, the working area comprising a reagent and a plurality of electrodes, the non-working area having a total thickness between an uppermost portion of the top surface of the test member in the non-working area and a lowermost portion of the bottom surface of the test member, the non-working area comprising a plurality of electrode tracks and a dielectric layer, the plurality of electrode tracks being electrically connected to the electrodes of the working area of the test member, the dielectric layer overlaying a first portion of the electrode tracks, a second portion of the electrode tracks being exposed, the total thickness of the non-working area being greater than the total thickness of the working area such that, when the test member is sandwiched in a vertical stack of identical test members, the working area of the test member will not engage an identical test member positioned immediately thereabove.

Claim 14 (New)

14. A test member in accordance with claim 13 wherein the total thickness of the non-working area is between 1 and 20 μm greater than the total thickness of the working area.

Claim 15 (New)

15. A test member in accordance with claim 14 wherein the total thickness of the non-working area is between 5 and 10 μm greater than the total thickness of the working area.

Claim 16 (New)

16. A test member in accordance with claim 13 wherein the non-working area of the test member comprises an ink layer that contributes to the total thickness of the non-working area.

Claim 17 (New)

17. A test member in accordance with claim 13 wherein the test member is shaped as an elongate strip.

Claim 18 (New)

18. A test member in accordance with claim 13 wherein the reagent is configured and adapted to react with glucose in blood.

Claim 19 (New)

19. A test member in accordance with claim 13 wherein the lowermost portion of the bottom surface of the test member is the lowermost portion of the bottom surface in the working area.